

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 MC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4834

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, MT, LY

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER EVASIVE ON LIBYAN AID

REF: VALLETTA 921

DURING OCTOBER 8 PARLIAMENTARY MEETING, OPPOSITION MEMBER N. FARRUGIA ASKED PM MINTOFF "WHAT WAS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL AID WITHOUT STRINGS GIVEN BY LIBYA FROM JUNE 1971 TILL SEPTEMBER 30, 1973." MINTOFF REPLIED: "ALL AID GIVEN TO MALTA BY THE LAR WAS WITHOUT STRINGS. IT WAS GENEROUSLY GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA TO THE PEOPLE OF MALTA BECAUSE THEY LOOK UPON THEM AS BLOOD BROTHERS, LIKE BROTHERS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THE SAME EFFORTS TO RID THEMSELVES OF THE FOREIGN YOKE, LIKE BROTHERS WHO WANT EVERYONE IN THEIR COUNTRY AND UNDER THEIR GOVERNMENT TO LIVE IN FREEDOM AND PEACE." FARRUGIA SAID PM HAD NOT ANSWERED HIS QUESTION. HE HAD ASKED FOR AMOUNT OF AID. MINTOFF REFUSED REPLY.

2. FARRUGIA THEN ASKED MIN PUBLIC BUILDING AND WORKS SANT ABOUT PROGRESS ON HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT IN LIBYA AWARDED TO MALTA GOVERNMENT (SEE REFTEL). SANT REPLIED "THIS IS NOT THE TIME YET FOR A DETAILED STATEMENT. A STATEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN THE FINAL RESULT IS KNOWN."

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3. FARRUGIA THEN TURNED TO MIN LABOR CASSAR TO ASK NUMBER MALTESE INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL WORKERS PRESENTLY IN LIBYA. IN ONLY FORTHRIGHT REPLY TO FARRUGIA'S QUESTIONS, CASSAR SAID TOTAL NUMBER MALTESE WORKING IN LIBYANA REGISTERED AT MALTESE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI IS 125, INCLUDING 59 NON-INDUSTRIALS AND 66 INDUSTRIALS.

4. IN SIMILAR VEIN, OPPOSITION MEMBER G. M. CAMILLERI ASKED PM FOLLOWING QUESTION REGARDING ARRIVAL AT LUQA AIRPORT ON SEPTEMBER 11 OF LIBYAN AIR FORCE PLANE: "IS IT TRUE THAT ON THIS PLANE'S ARRIVAL POLICEMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE C.I.D. ORDERED EVERYONE, INCLUDING AIR MALTA EMPLOYEES, AWAY FROM THE PLANE? IF THIS IS TRUE WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THIS MEASURE? IS IT TRUE THAT THREE POLICE TRUCKS APPROACHED THE PLANE AND POLICEMEN UNLOADED THE PLANE'S CARGO AND TRANSFERRED IT TO THE TRUCKS? IS IT TRUE THAT NO DETAILS OF THE UNLOADED CARGO WERE SUBMITTED TO CUSTOMS AND THE TRUCKS LEFT THE

AIRPORT WITHOUT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE? CAN THE PRIME MINISTER STATE WHAT WAS THE PLANE'S CARGO? "PRIME MINISTER GAVE FOLLOWING WRITTEN ANSWER: "I AM ADVISED THAT IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY'S

SECURITY TO REPLY TO THIS QUESTION AND ANOTHER QUESTION OF THE SAME NATURE."

5. COMMENT: WHILE DESIGNED TO PROTECT MALTA'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA, MINTOFF'S AND SANT'S REPLIES TO QUESTIONS BY NATIONALIST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OBVIOUSLY DID NOTHING TO DISPEL ANXIETIES CURRENT IN SOME MALTESE SECTORS REGARDING THIS RELATIONSHIP.
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